DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 183 175 IR 008 113

TITLE	Library Service to the People of New York State. A Long-Range Program October 1, 1979-September 30, 1984 for the Improvement of Library Services Using Local, State, and Federal Resources.
INSTITUTION	New York State Library, Albany.
PUB DATE	Jun 79
NOTE	24p.
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Improvement; Library Networks; *Library Planning; *Library Services; Program Descriptions; Public Libraries; *Regional Libraries; *Regional Planning; State Departments of Education; State Libraries; *State Programs
IDENTIFIERS	*New York

ABSTRACT

This report describes a comprehensive five-year program for the enhancement of library services in New York State, one which (1) provides a benchmark for the continuing planning, development, and evaluation of state library services; (2) summarizes the objectives, policies, and programs undertaken for the improvement of those services; (3) serves as a guide to library networks, regional planning groups, and other agencies that wish to participate; and (4) meets the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). An overview of the state library environment is offered, constraints on services are outlined, and the program's goals and objectives are explained. A bibliography of major documents for New York State library service programs is included. (FM)

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LIBRARY SERVICE
to the
PEOPLE OF NEW YORK STATE

A Long-Range Program
October 1, 1979—September 30, 1984
for the
Improvement of Library Services Using
Local, State, and Federal Resources

Adopted by
The Board of Regents
June 1979

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The Long-Range Program: Ideas From Many, Uses by Many

This comprehensive five-year program for the improvement of library services in New York State, which is revised each year, has several uses:

- It provides a benchmark for the continuing planning, development, and evaluation of library services in New York State.
- It summarizes for the Board of Regents, the State Education Department, New York State libraries, agencies and organizations with an interest in library services, and interested citizens of the State, the objectives, policies, and programs undertaken for the improvement of library services, particularly those that the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) program helps finance.
- It serves as a guide to library systems, regional planning groups, and other agencies that wish to participate in some way in the LSCA program.
- It meets the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act and the regulations of the U.S. Commissioner of Education under that act.

Staff of the New York State Library and members of the LSCA Advisory Council prepared this document (and its earlier versions) during the last several years. The plans and studies identified on page 19 are the foundation for this analysis. The revision of this document was assisted by broad citizen review of the 1978 document in eight regional meetings and in the June 1978 Governor's Conference on Libraries.

Others who review and contribute to this *Long-Range Program* are the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries and, within the State Education Department, the Commissioner of Education, the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Education, and the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education. The *Long-Range Program* is approved by the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York.

The State Education Department and all associated with the library development program recognize the need for continuous evaluation and planning. This principle is stated in *Library Service*, Regents Position Paper No. 8 (October 1970). That paper, the *Long-Range Program, the LSCA Annual Program Statement, the Major Recommendations of the Regents for Legislative Action 1979, and Federal Legislation and Education in New York State* are the basic policy documents for New York State's library service program.

The Libraries of New York State And Their Environment

Libraries—An Overview

Libraries have played a major role in New York State throughout its history. Most New York State communities support a public library. Many date back into the middle and early 1800's. Among the State's libraries are public and private institutions which were founded and developed through gifts, bequests, and endowments. Some are of national and international repute and help establish library and information services as a major resource of New York State.

In addition to these public libraries, the State has educational and academic institutions with library collections of great size and excellence. The State itself has supported a State Library since 1818. This vast research library is today one of the country's leading State libraries, with a collection of 4.5 million items. Through the leadership of Regents and the Education Department, State-level library extension and development programs antedate this century.

During the last 30 years, the development of communication technology and the information explosion have multiplied the demands of users on public libraries. These libraries and, indeed, libraries of all types have been changing in response to overwhelming demands by a better educated citizenry.

As the pressures on libraries increased, extensive statewide planning began at the State Library. Accomplishments in the past 30 years are impressive. A 1978 report says a "thumbnail sketch of the library picture in 1977 in New York State would include mention of:

(1) Coordinating responsibilities for all types of educational institutions, including libraries, vested at the State level in the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York;
(2) A historic, strong State Library, largest state library in the nation;
(3) An outstanding regional public library program composed of 22 systems which cover the entire State;
(4) Nine regional reference and research library systems organized in the past decade including 22 public library systems, college and university libraries, special libraries, and research libraries;
(5) The most fully developed statewide interlibrary loan network in the nation, NYSILL;
(6) Great numbers of local libraries of all types; school, public, academic and special—several thousand in all;
(7) School libraries in almost every school building, developed over the past decade; and
(8) Invaluable resources of State and national significance in academic libraries and The New York Public Library Research Libraries."[1]

These accomplishments formed the basis for legislation enacted in December 1978 which authorized additional aid for public library systems and reference and research library systems, created a statutory base for the reference and research library systems, and authorized new initiatives in school library system development and in regional networks for intersystem cooperation.

Yet it is important to recognize difficulties in the development, coordination, maintenance, and use of library resources in New York State. A major problem is that of increasing costs of materials and services during a period of economic stringency. This overriding concern about financial resources which affects the day-to-day existence of institutions is but one aspect of the changing environment of information services. Another is the change in the demands upon libraries due in

[1] *Library Service Now in New York State*, by Ann E. Prentice and Jean L. Connor. Albany: The University Press, 1978. p. 3, a background paper prepared for the Governor's Commission on Libraries.

part to the trend toward lifelong learning and the increase in leisure time. Services offered by libraries have expanded and changed. Today libraries supply materials in a wide range of formats. Increasingly diverse clienteles besiege libraries in search of new learning experiences, new ways to use leisure time more profitably, and their roots. Demand has also increased for research-level materials from postsecondary education and business and industry. As the ways to identify resources have multiplied, the demand for access to these resources has accelerated.

State Government

Education in New York State is under the direction of the Board of Regents whose powers are provided for in the State constitution. The Legislature is empowered to appoint the members of the Board of Regents, formulate the State Education Law, and approve the State Education Department's budget.

The Board of Regents consists of 15 members, each appointed for a term of seven years. The Commissioner of the State Education Department, appointed by the Board of Regents, is the chief educational administrator and President of The University of the State of New York, the corporate entity which governs the educational activities of State government. The Board of Regents and the Commissioner determine the broad general standards for all education in New York State.

Under the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, the Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian administers the State Library and is the chief library officer for the State. The New York State Library encompasses three major units: The State Library, the Bureau of Regional Library Services, and the Bureau of Specialist Library Services.

The Bureau of School Libraries is within another unit, the Division of Humanities and Arts Education, which is under the Deputy Commissioner for Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education.

The Executive branch of government includes the Governor and State departments and agencies. The Governor, through the Division of the Budget, prepares the State budget and submits it to the Legislature each January. General overseeing of State funds is exercised by the Department of Audit and Control, headed by the State Comptroller, an elected official.

The Judicial branch includes all State courts. The courts may decide legal questions relating to libraries and may decide appeals (under specific circumstances) from decisions of the Commissioner of Education.

Libraries, Library Systems, and Networks

New York State's 719 public libraries operate within political subdivisions which have the power to tax to provide library support. The types of political subdivisions with taxing powers include county, city, town, village, and school district. Special library district taxes are levied and collected in some instances by a municipality.

Public Libraries. The Regents of The University of the State of New York charter (i.e., incorporate) the public libraries. A library may serve a village, town, city, county, school district, a combination of these units, or a special library district established by the Legislature. These libraries are subject to State Education Law and to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Among the several types of public libraries, each of which has the powers of a chartered/incorporated institution, are:

- **Municipal.** Created by a unit of local government. Trustees selected by local government. There are 200 municipal libraries in New York State.

- **Association.** Created by a membership association, may contract to provide services to a unit of government or a school district. Trustees elected by the membership of the association. There are 383 association libraries in New York State.

- **School district.** Created by vote of the school district electorate or a city board of education. Trustees elected by the voters of the district or appointed by a city board of education. There are 124 school district public libraries in New York State.

- **Special district.** Created by the Legislature to serve a part of one or more municipalities. Appointment of trustees varies, depending on the special districts. There are 12 special district libraries in New York State.

A board of trustees governs each library, with specific powers and responsibilities under the Education Law. Boards vary in size from 5 to 25 members. Each public library board is autonomous.

The main financial support for public libraries in New York State (an average of 67 percent) comes from municipalities, counties, school districts, a combination of these units, or a special library district. In 1977, these boards spent about $129 million from local sources.

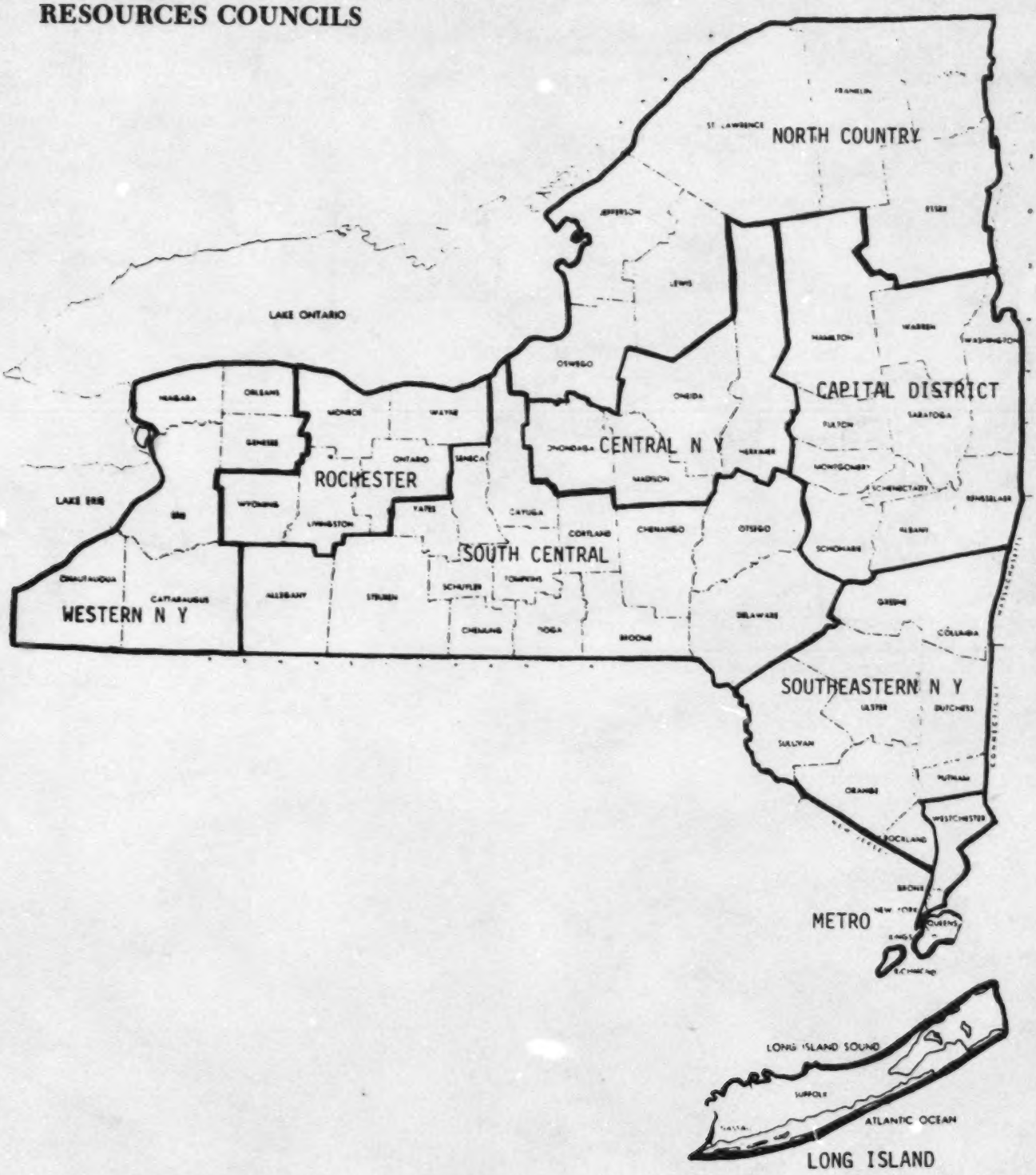
Public Library Systems. The 22 public library systems authorized by Education Law (dating back to 1950) have as members all but eight public libraries in the State. The Board of Regents charter the public library systems which operate under plans of service approved by the Commissioner of Education. In 1979, State support for the public library systems was approximately $30 million.

Typical functions of the public library system are coordination of services and functions through cooperation, education and inservice training; experimentation and evaluation; extension of service to all parts of the area; cooperative development of central library collections; and resource-sharing through interlibrary loan and program development.

Education Law provides for three types of public library systems. **A consolidated system** is chartered as a single entity under a board of trustees; all libraries are branches of the main library. **A federated system** is created by action of the board or boards of supervisors of the county or counties involved while the members (legally chartered libraries) retain their own independent boards. **A cooperative system** is an association created by agreement of the boards of member, chartered libraries which retain their independent entities. Member library boards elect the boards of trustees of cooperative systems. The parent governmental units of consolidated and federated library systems appoint their boards. Each library system has a legally designated central library or cocentral libraries from which member libraries receive systemwide reference and interloan services.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

REFERENCE AND RESEARCH LIBRARY RESOURCES COUNCILS



Reference and Research Library Resources Systems. Reference and Research Library Resources Systems are regional associations of libraries of publicly and privately supported colleges and universities, special libraries (both in corporate and not-for-profit organizations) and public library systems. The Board of Regents charter the councils which operate under plans of service approved by the Commissioner of Education. Boundaries of the councils match those of public library systems. In 1979, State support for these systems is $1 million ($120,000 for each system).

A basic goal of these systems is the sharing of resources to meet the reference and information needs of the library user, students and faculty of institutions of higher education, the professions, and others. Typical functions include interlibrary loan; coordination of services available from council members; staff education and inservice training; delivery services; improved communication among libraries; regional cooperation in collection development; production of union lists and bibliographic control programs; microfilming and preservation programs; cooperative use of computer-based systems, including OCLC, Inc. services; reciprocal access; and interface with the New York State Interlibrary Loan System (NYSILL).

Nine systems cover the entire State. Their members include all 22 public library systems and about 490 other libraries including academic and research libraries, special libraries, and hospital and other health agency libraries. Regulations of the Commissioner of Education establish standards of membership. The systems are governed by boards of trustees elected by the membership. These boards include representatives of member libraries, directors of public library systems, and some lay persons from the research community served by the council.

School Libraries and Media Centers. New York State has an estimated 4,321 school library media centers within the 4,321 school buildings which 737 local Boards of Education operate. Education Law requires libraries in secondary schools; an estimated 1,283 secondary school libraries operate in the State's schools. Of the 2,944 elementary schools, all have libraries. Approximately 3,600 school librarians staff New York State's school libraries. Fewer than 100 school library supervisors serve in 737 school districts.

Legislation enacted in 1978 encourages planning for school library systems which cross school district lines. Librarians in each of nine regional library planning areas have organized committees to explore possibilities for school library system development and an interface between school library systems and other systems. The 44 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and the five largest city school districts provide a basis for cooperative development of school library services and for sharing both print and nonprint resources. In early 1979, 11 pilot school library system projects began operation under the 1978 legislation.

Institution Libraries. An estimated 100,000 persons are confined in more than 200 public institutions administered by various State agencies, New York City, and the counties. The administrators of these institutions and the departments of which they are a part determine what library services these institutions provide. There are 90 libraries in State-operated correctional, youth, mental health, and health facilities. Legislation to authorize and fund such a special purpose system was introduced in at least two sessions of the State Legislature, but was not enacted. Instead, beginning in 1974, there have been modest annual appropriations for extension of public library system services to local correctional institutions. Library service in most city and county institutions now is provided as part of outreach programs from public library systems.

College and University Libraries. The library resources of colleges and universities are an important part of the State's total library resources. New York State has more institutions of higher education than any other state and has the second largest student enrollment. In 1978, there were 245 degree-granting institutions of higher education in the State, of which 82 were public, 136 independent, and 27 proprietary. Some 932,000 persons are enrolled in these institutions on a full-time or part-time basis. Of the total student body, 57 percent attend public institutions and 43 percent attend independent and proprietary institutions. Library holdings include 49 million volumes. Of these, some 68 percent are held by institutions in the independent sector and 32 percent are held by public institutions.

The State University of New York is one of two major public higher education systems in the State. It consists of four university centers, two medical centers, 13 colleges of arts and sciences, five statutory colleges administered in cooperation with Cornell University and Alfred University, six agricultural and technical colleges, 30 locally sponsored community colleges, and four specialized colleges. In fall 1978, nearly 348,000 students were enrolled in SUNY. Library holdings include some 11.5 million volumes.

The City University of New York (CUNY) is a 18-unit system consisting of nine senior colleges, one college offering both four-year and two-year degree programs, eight two-year community colleges, a graduate school and a university center. In fall 1978, nearly 179,000 students were enrolled in CUNY. Library holdings include some 4.1 million volumes.

The 136 private or independent colleges and universities include 11 universities, 59 colleges, eight engineering and technical schools, 16 health centers and specialized colleges, 16 two-year colleges, and 22 seminaries. In fall 1978, the enrollment of these institutions totaled nearly 383,000. Library holdings include 33.2 million volumes.

There are, in addition, 27 proprietary colleges which enroll some 22,000 students. Their library holdings include some 71,000 volumes.

New York State Interlibrary Loan. New York State Interlibrary Loan (NYSILL) is the State-level service of the Reference and Research Library Resources Program. Library users gain access to NYSILL through the 22 public library systems and the nine reference and research library resource systems. The New York State Library serves as a central resource and referral center for the NYSILL network. The 12 contracting libraries are:

American Museum of Natural History
Brooklyn Public Library
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
Columbia University
Cornell University
Engineering Societies Library
Monroe County Library System
New York Academy of Medicine
The New York Public Library
New York University
Teachers College
Union Theological Seminary

OCLC, Inc./SUNY. OCLC, Inc., (Ohio College Library Center) is an online computer system with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. This shared cataloging program serves 1,000 libraries in 46 states, 138 of the libraries are in New York State. OCLC, Inc. began in 1969 as a not-for-profit educational consortium with the objectives of holding down library cost and increasing the availability of resources. Academic libraries, public library systems, and State agency libraries are among OCLC, Inc. participants. In New York State, the Director of Library Services of the SUNY Central Administration, the planning and coordinating office for the entire university, coordinates OCLC, Inc. service. Though it originally received some funding from New York State, the system is now self-supporting in the State through fees charged the member libraries. The SUNY/OCLC network director is advised by a 10-member State University of New York Network Advisory Committee (SONAC).

Regional Medical Library Program. The federally funded Regional Medical Library (RML) network, operating under a contract between the New York Academy of Medicine and the National Library of Medicine, provides access to specialized health information resources in New York and New Jersey (RML Region II). In New York State, seven libraries serve as subcontractors: State University of New York at Stony Brook Health Sciences Library, Medical Research Library of Brooklyn, Albany Medical College Library, Westchester Medical Center Library, State University of New York Upstate Medical Center Library, University of Rochester School of Medicine Library, and State University of New York at Buffalo Health Sciences Library. During 1978–79, these libraries handled 160,000 interlibrary loan requests for health information materials. Because the New York Academy of Medicine also serves as a resource library in the NYSILL network, requests not filled in either network may be switched to the other at the Academy.

Constraints That Reduce the Services of Libraries

Financial. Most funding for library service is local, supplied by communities or institutions of which the libraries are a part. Significant support, however, comes from the State for public library systems, for operation of reference and research library systems, and for support of The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library.

Economic problems, including nationwide inflation, affect the State's financial capacity. In 1973, 1976, 1977, and 1978 selected library programs received some increases in State aid. The economic situation also weakened the financial potential at the local level. Local property taxes are high (with some jurisdictions at their taxing limitation) and taxpayers are resisting increases. Library budgets remain proportionately low in comparison to those of other government services.

In 1977, the total public library expenditure from all sources was $185 million, making the average public library expenditure per capita, exclusive of capital expenditures, $10.09. Per capita expenditure at the local level ranges from less than a dollar to several times the statewide figure.

Federal funding for the Federal Library Services and Construction Act is low in relation to need, and is inadequate to meet the goals stated in the statute.

Legal. The Federal Library Services and Construction Act and its Federal regulations establish requirements, limit the use of funds to specific purposes, and set general boundaries of use. New York State's Education Law and other State laws also establish the boundaries within which libraries and systems must operate, the standards and requirements they must meet, and their legal structure.

Political. All levels of government priorities, pressures, agreements, compromises, and other realities of the American political system affect libraries in their funding, development, functions, and areas of service.

Resources. Libraries are confronted by a greatly increased volume of published materials, an expanding variety of forms of media, staggering inflation in the cost of published materials, and rapid (and expensive) advances in computer technology and automation which have transformed the handling and transfer of information. Library staff shortages severely limit library services at all levels. These shortages result from financial constraints and the frequent inability to find qualified personnel at other than the beginning levels. Libraries must often depend upon other units of government and other agencies for specialized services. This may create delays or cause other problems.

A large number of libraries lack adequate physical facilities. To make libraries accessible to handicapped persons as required by State and Federal law will require remodeling, rehabilitation, and the modification of many buildings. Many libraries are planning new construction or remodeling, but most lack the funds to build. Most of the facilities for institution libraries need improvement.

Goals

"Any State resident, regardless of age, has a right to convenient free access to local libraries to meet his needs."[2] This is the primary goal of library service for the State of New York as stated by the Regents in *Library Service*—a position paper on libraries. This means that every resident has a right to free access to a library within a reasonable distance, and that this library will be able to meet his or her library/information needs, either from its own resources or through a statewide network. This full, statewide service requires an evolutionary program which adjusts to the changing needs of all citizens.

To provide access to a wider range of resources by fostering development of coordinated networks is a second goal. Different types of libraries have evolved to meet the variety of needs of the State's men, women, and children. These include public, school, academic (community college, college, and university), special (business, government, and organization) and institution libraries. Through systems and networks, these diverse resources become accessible to the greatest number of people. The Regents state that "Statewide library networks constitute the most efficient means to provide quality user service. . .and the central principle for a library program for New York State should be the further development of an integrated network of libraries."[3]

Because no single library can contain everything that a library user might require, the State created and is continuing to develop the New York State Interlibrary Loan Network (NYSILL). Public, academic, and research libraries and also many medical, institutional, and business libraries offer services cooperatively through NYSILL. Library planners believe that school libraries and other libraries not now affiliated will join this network, making it possible, through NYSILL, to call upon all library resources in the State. Libraries are also developing plans for sharing resources on a regional basis.

Extending these two basic State goals are those more specific purposes stated in the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (as amended by Public Laws 91-600 and 93-380). Those under Title I are the improvement of public library service in general and the elimination of inadequacies to those not fully served by a number of reasons; improvement of library service in State institutions; expansion and improvement of library programs for the blind and physically handicapped; strengthening of metropolitan public libraries which play essential roles in regional service; and strengthening the State Library and its backstopping, coordinating, and development services.

The purpose of Title III of The Federal Library Services and Construction Act is to establish and maintain local, regional, State, or interstate cooperative networks of libraries for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic, and special libraries and special information centers.

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[2] *Library Service: A Statement of Policy and Proposed Action by the Regents of The University of the State of New York*. A Position Paper, No. 8 of a Series. 1970.

[3] IBID.

Library planners have developed objectives for these goals. Implicit in these goals are two principles: that the people of New York State may use more than one type of library, and that all libraries are interdependent. Nine objectives are stated in part five of this document. They are:

Local Service

Library Systems

Major Urban Resource Libraries

Service to the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Service to the Adult Independent Learner

Service to Residents of Institutions

Physical Facilities

School Library Services

State Library Services

Some factors influence library decision-making and apply to all objectives. Among them are the priorities of the Regents as related to libraries, Federal priorities under the Library Services and Construction Act, library and information needs of users, the status of ongoing programs in their various phases of implementation, and the current economic environment with local State and Federal fiscal resources and constraints.

Nine Library Program Objectives

New York State has an enormous range of library activities. For the purposes of this document, these activities have been grouped into nine broad objectives or programs. The order in which they appear does not indicate priority.

1. The provision of quality service for all persons in their local communities by use of State and Federal aid to improve, develop, strengthen, and expand library services

The residents of New York State have a right to receive good library service in their home communities. In seeking information, users may start at a number of different points. The usual point of access for the person not enrolled in a formal course of education is a public library or branch library. Students usually turn first to a school or academic library. Business employees often first seek library service through a corporate library. Previously, when each library operated independently, each information seeker had to go from library to library. Today, by channeling materials and information from one library to another, the network can bring the resources of the State to the local community.

Those persons who are economically disadvantaged or who face cultural, physical, or psychological barriers may need help in the use of library services. Under the definition of the Office of Economic Opportunity, over 12 percent of the State's population is poor. These people are concentrated in urban areas and scattered in suburban and rural areas throughout the State. For many New Yorkers, English is not their first language, and these people may need aid in using libraries which are primarily oriented to English-speaking users.

To implement this objective, projects which improve bibliographic access may be initiated, intertype library cooperative networks with their variety of services will be developed, and service to groups with special needs will be continued and improved.

2. The improvement of library systems and their resource libraries and the further development of intersystem cooperation, making it possible for libraries of all types to serve their readers more completely, efficiently, and effectively

More than 20 years of library system development in New York State, starting with public library systems and reference and research library resources systems and now including pilot programs for school library systems and regional networks for intersystem cooperation, have demonstrated the value of building upon the strength of existing institutions, of shared development and use of resources, and of imaginative program development.

Beginning in 1979, and continuing for three years, State funds will be used in pilot programs to evaluate realistically what problems must be overcome and what fiscal resources will be needed for the development of school library systems and regional intersystem cooperative networks. The aim of such regional development is to provide needed resources and services, from basic to the most advanced, through the user's home library, whether that home library is a school, public, academic, special, industrial, or research library.

Increased State funds will be sought for established library systems, central libraries and other resource libraries to meet the increased demands for services and to keep pace with the escalating costs of materials and services. Beyond seeking improvement in State funding, several methods will be used to meet the

serious information needs of library users (college students, faculty, professionals, and independent researchers) as well as the needs of business and industry in the State. Existing regional reference and research library resources systems will be strengthened and improved so that all have access to delivery services, bibliographic clearing centers, union lists of serials, and consultant services to college, university, and special research libraries.

The statewide interlibrary loan network (NYSILL) will be improved. The NYSILL network should be supplemented and supported by expanded regional system interlibrary loan programs which make full use of area resources. In order to speed interlibrary loan requests through the network, the communications system which links NYSILL referral libraries, the State Library, and library systems will be improved and enlarged, making full use of modern technology—teletype, computer, satellite for document delivery, and a facsimile network when technical developments warrant. Development of a statewide delivery system for interlibrary loan to link the New York State Library with key points in library regions for more timely delivery of library materials including films, should be considered. Interface between the NYSILL network and growing national networks such as Ohio College Library Center (OCLC) are being studied and will be developed.

Other appropriate research and evaluation studies should be undertaken to assess regional system progress and NYSILL performance, to assist in establishing "fair compensation" to research libraries for service outside their primary clientele, and to evaluate research user needs and satisfaction. State aid should be secured to further strengthen the research collections of the major research libraries participating as resource libraries in the NYSILL program.

The New York State union list of serials is being developed as a coordinated statewide program to build a machine-readable data base based on the CONSER (Conversion of Serials) project. A complete record of the holdings of the newspapers of New York State will be developed cooperatively in a newspaper bibliographic and preservation program. The development of a statewide retrospective data base of monograph holdings will be accelerated.

Consultant assistance and funds for pilot work leading to the development of a coordinated program of automation which is of assistance to all libraries and has the capacity to mesh with other automated programs will be provided. The New York State Library will participate in national network planning, seeking those interconnections which will benefit New York State users.

3. The strengthening of major urban resource libraries

Public Law 95-123 amended Title I of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act to earmark funds for the strengthening of public libraries which serve major urban resource libraries. These libraries fill an important place in the proper functioning of any major system or network. They are irreplaceable resources that will become more and more heavily used as access to them increases.

Public libraries in New York State which qualify for assistance under this program are the Albany Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, New York Public Library, Queens Borough Public Library, Rochester Public Library, Onondaga Public Library (Syracuse), and Yonkers Public Library.

4. The provision of service to the blind and the physically handicapped who are unable to use conventional printed library materials, and who often require special information, by improving, expanding, and strengthening public service to these users and potential users

The objective of this service is to provide these readers with information services equal to those available to sighted readers. To do this, special equipment (record players, cassette players, and low vision aids) and special materials (braille, recorded disc, and tape cassettes) are required. These expensive materials are available in New York State through two regional libraries. These are the New York Public Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped which serves readers in the five boroughs of New York City and Long Island, and The New York State Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped which serves readers in 55 upstate counties.

Public libraries and other local community agencies are important points of contact for this service. They can identify potential users, provide readers advisory services, introduce such users to conventional services (telephone reference, audio collections), and provide intermediary contact between the local user and the regional libraries.

Using funds from a State legislative appropriation, the Albany Public Library has initiated a pilot project to demonstrate enhanced local services to the visually handicapped. All libraries will be encouraged to develop such services. A coordinated plan for service to the blind and visually handicapped, including State-level publicity and consultant support, backstops these efforts.

The special information needs of the handicapped need to be better understood and addressed by all types of libraries. Reference collections should include the special resource materials which physically disabled persons and their families require to meet daily living needs. Library systems must make commitments to deaf library users through outreach programs involving staff trained in nonverbal communication, special materials, and new telephone/teletype written communications systems.

5. The improvement of service to adult independent learners and others who use or could use the library as an educational or vocational facility

Each year more adults are involved in independent learning to keep their education from becoming obsolete as fields of knowledge change rapidly and as they see a continuing need to improve and increase their knowledge in relation to their jobs. Development of programs such as the Regents External Degree, Empire State College, and The University Without Walls have made it possible to obtain a college degree largely through independent study without attending formal, on-campus programs; these students are already making added demands on their local public libraries. Community colleges have brought more adults into higher education. Many adults are part-time students who find the public library most accessible. Persons who left school can now extend their education through such means as the High School Equivalency exams or individualized higher education programs. The public library is a major resource for such students. Libraries are also meeting the needs of those who need help in attaining basic literacy skills or job placement. These needs are identified and met through Job Information Centers and adult literacy programs.

Public libraries have always provided reader advisory services, either formally or informally, but new demands of users are requiring that librarians acquire greater skill and knowledge in assisting the adult learner.

Funds will be made available to the library systems to provide service to the adult

learner and jobseeker. These funds will cover such costs as additional staffing, essential materials and equipment, travel, and contractual services.

The 1976 Amendments to the Higher Education Act authorize the Education Information Center Program and require the states to develop comprehensive plans to provide educational information, guidance, and referral services on the postsecondary level for all individuals. In the development of education and career information and advisory services for adults, special attention will be given to the public library as a delivery system for these services. The public library's neutral image; established identity as a community information center; ability to classify, store, and retrieve large volumes of information; accessibility and prolonged hours of service to the general public are complementary to the goals and objectives of the Education Information Center Program.

6. The establishment, development, and improvement of library service to residents of publicly supported institutions who are receiving custodial care, habilitation, or rehabilitation

The residents of institutions need convenient free access to library services within the institution to meet their needs for information, education, and recreation. Most institution libraries are inadequate to help residents adjust successfully to self and society. Institution residents are confined and in many cases have no direct access to libraries serving the general public. Institution residents also have special needs and interests and require specialized services. Institution libraries need strong backup support from public library systems and member libraries, and they need the capability to tie into NYSILL and other networks.

Special State appropriations for institution library service have been used to assist public libraries in providing additional service to residents of local institutions including "books-by-mail" programs and interlibrary loan. In addition, limited projects have been developed under LSCA Title I.

A effective program for institution library service will require adequate support from the agencies which administer the institutions, staffing at the institution level, and full participation by institution libraries in the mainstream of library networking.

7. The construction and renovation of library facilities to improve service in systems and member public libraries and to provide access for the physically handicapped

Many library buildings are too small or are outdated. Changes in service programs and information technology are creating demands that existing library buildings lacking space, flexibility, electrical connections and air conditioning cannot meet. In addition, it is essential that architectural barriers in libraries be removed so that facilities are fully accessible to persons with physical handicaps.

It has been estimated that it would cost a minimum of $125 million to provide adequate physical facilities for the libraries of the State. Two types of funding are needed: grants for planning and funding to provide incentive and equalization support to local libraries. State-level and system planning in relation to physical facilities is needed to gain maximum value for construction expenditures and avoid possible overbuilding. Both State and Federal funds will be required to narrow the gap between need and present inadequate facilities.

8. The development, improvement, and extension of school library media programs for better service to students and teachers

School libraries support the educational and instructional program of the elementary and secondary schools and provide students

with the skills and attitudes needed to become lifelong users of libraries. It is axiomatic that children who are denied the opportunity to read widely in areas of interest to them and at a comfortable level of difficulty will not be motivated to improve their reading skills. Neither will they be able to benefit from the extensive resources of libraries as adults if they have not learned the necessary techniques of research and inquiry. The goal of lifelong learning and the success of adult independent learners depends heavily on the quality of library experiences in the formative years. For many young people school libraries are the only planned, consistent source of library service.

State funds have been provided to support pilot projects establishing, for the first time, school library systems which have the potential of not only strengthening individual school library programs but also of interacting with established public library systems and the reference and research library resources systems.

The Bureau of School Libraries has prepared a curriculum planning guide for elementary library media programs, *The Elementary School Library Media Program*, to assist schools in carrying out the teaching function of the school library. A draft edition was field-tested in 1978 and 1979. A similar guide will be prepared for secondary schools.

The continued development and improvement of school library services requires increased Federal, State and local support for the employment of certified school library media specialists to serve students and teachers in all schools, the acquisition of school library media resources, and the expansion of school library systems.

9. The strengthening of the resources and services of the State Library to assure (a) the highest quality reference and research library service to the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of State government; (b) efficient and effective interlibrary loan, networking, backstopping, and specialized library services to libraries and clienteles; and (c) planning, coordination, leadership, and State financial participation in the provision of library service to all the people of New York State

Effective access by all State residents to information resources requires coordinated planning, the full use of sophisticated technology, and administrative center for the statewide information and interloan network, and strong collections of informational materials publicly accessible. Each level of library service, from the smallest local outlet to research centers such as the State Library, must identify its appropriate responsibility for the provision of information, and must be aided in meeting such responsibility adequately. Relationships of individual libraries within regional networks and the role of regional networks in total statewide library resource-sharing needs coordination at the State Library level.

Development and improvement of library services statewide requires consultant, specialist, and administrative staff in the Library Development Bureaus and the Administration Unit for work with libraries, systems, networks, government agencies, professional organizations, and users. The State Library

agency must strengthen its capacity in the collection and analysis of statistics for measurement and evaluation, develop appropriate continuing education programs, and develop effective communication with all types of libraries and organizations concerned with library, information, cultural, and educational services.

For the Library, priority is given to those programs and services which it can uniquely provide as the research library for the government and people of the State, as a statewide resource and administrative center for the interloan network, and as a regional resource for the blind and visually handicapped.

For the Library Development Bureaus, priority is placed upon the provision of staff with special skills capable of providing services usually not found at, or appropriate to, local and/or regional levels of service. Library Development staff provide leadership and support in areas such as organization, management, planning, evaluation, continuing education, and service to special clientele.

To implement this program, the State Library will utilize the 4.5 million item State Library collection as a central resource in the statewide network, maintain collection and staff strengths at the Library which will insure timely and effective response to interlibrary loan requests, utilize new technology to improve network performance, provide access to information resources (such as computerized data bases) which are too costly or too new to be available as local resources in all areas, maintain a strong collection of special media materials for the blind and visually handicapped, and support local "direct contact" services with centralized resources, statewide public relations programs, and computer support systems.

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The activity which is the subject of this publication is supported in part by Federal Library Services and Construction Act grant funds administered by the New York State Education Department.